THE BEANEY
HOUSE OF ART
& KNOWLEDGE

Make Your Own **Pilgrimage**

Take inspiration from our People and Places gallery and take an imaginary journey you without leaving home!

So what's a pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a special journey that has a clear purpose, like a quest!

The people in this painting by Thomas Stothard RA are pilgrims travelling to Canterbury in the Medieval period (AD 500 - AD 1400).

Why did medieval pilgrims come to Canterbury?

Often a pilgrimage is religious. The archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in AD 1170, this painting by Julian Opie (right) shows the famous event. Following the murder, Becket was made a saint and a shrine was built in Canterbury Cathedral.

Many people heard rumours that pilgrims visiting Becket's shrine were being cured of all sorts of injuries and illnesses. As the rumours spread, more and more people came to Canterbury from all over Europe in hope of miracle cures.

Preparing for your Pilgrimage

First, your pilgrimage must have a purpose, so you have to decide on the reason you are making your journey!

Choose an object from your home. That object will be the purpose of your pilgrimage.

For example:

- A book containing secret and very important information.
- A magical object that is said to give people some kind of power.

Now hide the object somewhere in your home!

Sound too easy?

Well this is an imaginary journey, and it might not be as easy as you think... Below is a list of things you might encounter in your home. In your imaginary journey these things will be transformed.

A STAIRCASE	BECOMES	A MOUNTAIN
A CUPBOARD	BECOMES	A CAVE
A FIREPLACE	BECOMES	A CAMPFIRE
A TABLE	BECOMES	A FOREST
A BED	BECOMES	A TUNNEL
A SOFA	BECOMES	A SHIP
A SHOWER	BECOMES	A WATERFALL

These are just examples of ways to make your imaginary journey more exciting. You can use this chart, create your own, or make it up as you go along!

Remember, you should let an adult know what you are doing.

Recording your pilgrimage

There are some very famous stories associated with the pilgrims that travelled to Canterbury in medieval times: 'The Canterbury Tales'! The tales were written by Geoffrey Chaucer, an english poet who lived around AD 1400. He imagined the stories that a group of pilgrims might tell one another on their way to Canterbury from London

This painting of Chaucer is by an unknown artist.

In his right hand he is holding a pen case, a token of his craft.

You will need to pack some things to write with. Along the way you are going to record the story of your journey!

Find a pencil or a pen and something to write and draw on! You can use paper, something digital or you could print out the parchment in this activity pack.

Here's an example of how you might start your journey...

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I set out on my pilgrimage to find the book of legend. It was said that the person who found the book would gain great wisdom!

The weather was cold and so I packed a warm cloak, some food and drink for the journey, as well as some things to record my story.

First, I boarded a ship (sofa). the crossing was rough and I almost fell overboard.

Eventually we reached the shore and I set off. Soon I found myself at the foot of a mountain (staircase)...

It was twelve miles (twelve steps) to the top ...

Drawing? Design? Story? Idea?
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If you would prefer to record your pilgrimage by drawing rather than writing you could make an illustrated imaginary map! your story inside!

This hand made map of Canterbury was made around 300 years ago

Your story will be a record of your pilgrimage but there's another way you could commemorate your journey.

Pilgrim’s Badges

The Beaney has a huge collection of Pilgrim’s Badges. These are just a few examples from the 12th – 15th Century. They are made of tin-lead and were bought by thousands of pilgrims to commemorate their journey to Canterbury. The badges were worn on either your hat or cloak.

You can see some medieval Pilgrim Badges for yourself in The People & Places Gallery when the museum reopens!

Why not make your own Pilgrim badge? It could be a design that shows the object you set out to find or part of your imaginary journey!

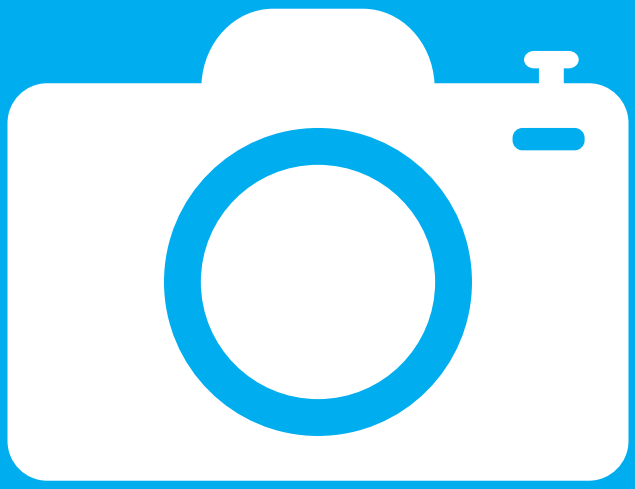
You could use paper, card and foil to create your design and attach a safety pin so you can wear your badge.

Remember, you should let an adult know what you are doing and ask permission to use anything you need.

CONGRATULATIONS PILGRIM!

We'd love to hear your stories and see your creations.

Be sure to take a few photos and share them with us.



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